

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
WESTERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

FERNANDO ENRIQUE CORTEZ,

Defendant.

No. CR06-4027-MWB

**ORDER ACCEPTING MAGISTRATE
JUDGE'S REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING
DEFENDANT'S GUILTY PLEA**

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On May 18, 2006, a superseding indictment was returned against defendant Fernando Enrique Cortez, charging defendant with conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, to distribute 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine and to distribute powder cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), 841(b)(1)(C), and 846, and distributing 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A). On November 30, 2006, defendant appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Paul A. Zoss and entered a plea of guilty to Count 1 of the superseding indictment. On this same date, Judge Zoss filed a Report and Recommendation in which he recommends that defendant's guilty plea be accepted. No objections to Judge Zoss's Report and Recommendation were filed. The court, therefore, undertakes the necessary review of Judge Zoss's recommendation to accept defendant's plea in this case.

II. ANALYSIS

Pursuant to statute, this court's standard of review for a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation is as follows:

A judge of the court shall make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made. A judge of the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate [judge].

28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Similarly, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 72(b) provides for review of a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation on dispositive motions and prisoner petitions, where objections are made, as follows:

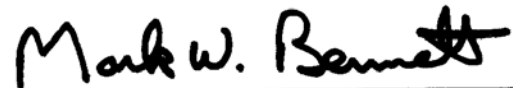
The district judge to whom the case is assigned shall make a de novo determination upon the record, or after additional evidence, of any portion of the magistrate judge's disposition to which specific written objection has been made in accordance with this rule. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommended decision, receive further evidence, or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b).

In this case, no objections have been filed, and it appears to the court upon review of Judge Zoss's findings and conclusions, that there is no ground to reject or modify them. Therefore, the court **accepts** Judge Zoss's Report and Recommendation of November 30, 2006, and accepts defendant's plea of guilty in this case to Count 1 of the superseding indictment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 20th day of December, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark W. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

MARK W. BENNETT
CHIEF JUDGE, U. S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA